

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 T-03 OMB-01 IO-13 CU-04 OPR-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /108 W

----- 010791

R 091455 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3362

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 189

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT SF

SUBJ: REACTION TO BANNINGS

REF: CAPE TOWN 183

1. AT REQUEST OF HELEN SUZMAN, PROGRESSIVE PARTY MP, 30-MINUTE " SNAP" DEBATE
HELD IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 8 ON BANNING
OF EIGHT SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (SASO) AND BLACK
PEOPLE' S CONVENTION (BPC) LEADERS. MINISTER OF JUSTICE PELSNER
JUSTIFIED NON- JUDICIAL ACTION AGAINST EIGHT, STATING COURT
PROCEEDINGS WOULD HAVE " GIVEN THEM A PLATFORM."
2. UNITED PAARTY (UP) SPOKESMEN IN DEBATE, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF
AND MIKE MITCHELL, REITERATED UP OPPOSITION TO BANNINGS, WHICH
SHOWED THE GOVERNMENT' S " UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE REGULAR PROCESS
OF THE LAW," AND STATED UP BELIEF THAT FOUNDATION ON WHICH
SOCIETY RESTS " IS FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN THE LAW."
3. MRS. SUZMAN WARNED IN DEBATE THAT, INSTEAD OF CRUSHING
BLACK ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH BANNING OF LEADERS, GOVERNMENT MAY
HAVE GIVEN THEM " THE KISS OF LIFE." YOUNG BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS
DO NOT, CLAIMED SUZMAN, SHARE FATALISM OF THEIR ELDERS AND
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WILL NOT TAKE OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION " LYING DOWN ANY LONGER."

4. SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF FACED VOCALLY HOSTILE PREDOMINATELY WHITE- STUDENT AUDIENCE AT PUBLIC MEETING IN HIS CAPE TOWN CONSTITUENCY MARCH 8, AT WHICH HE EXPLAINED UP POSITION ON NUSAS, SASO AND BPC BANNINGS. GRAAFF MADE NO HEADWAY IN TRYING TO CONVINCE ANGRY STUDENTS OF NEED TO UNITE WITH UP IN PROTEST AGAINST BANNINGS BY GOVERNMENT. HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO JUSTIFY UP' S SUPPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REPORT RECOMMENDING URGENT ACTION AGAINST NUSAS LEADERS. AT CONCLUSION OF GRAAFF' S SPEECH SEVERAL STUDENTS LED AUDIENCE IN OVERWHELMING VOTE OF NO- CONFIDENCE IN GRAAFF' S LEADERSHIP.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAPET00189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730323/aaaahhho.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CAPE TOWN 183
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Oct-2001 by hagers>; APPROVED <15 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971112
Subject: REACTION TO BANNINGS
TAGS: PINT, SF
To: AF
DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG
PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

